



NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the United States Attorney
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**For Immediate Release
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MAN SENTENCED FOR ILLEGAL FIREARM POSSESSION

Lafayette, Louisiana . . . **DAVID EARL STANLEY**, age 53, from Carlyss, Louisiana, was sentenced today to 18 months imprisonment to be followed by 3 years supervised release by United States District Judge Patricia Minaldi for being a convicted felon in possession of a firearm, announced United States Attorney Donald W. Washington and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Special Agent in Charge Mark Chait. STANLEY was indicted by a federal grand jury in November 2004 and pled guilty in March 2005.

The Lake Charles Police Department received an anonymous tip in May 2004 regarding a convicted felon being in possession of firearms. A search warrant of STANLEY's residence and vehicle revealed several weapons, including a 9-mm pistol, a 12-gauge shotgun, and a Marlin .22 rifle. Officers also found ammunition in the defendant's vehicle and in his residence.

STANLEY is not a stranger to the Court System. He has one prior felony conviction in California for aiding and abetting an illegal entry; one prior felony conviction in Arizona for conspiracy to import cocaine; and one prior felony conviction in Texas for possession of illegal guns. It is unlawful for a convicted felon to be in possession of firearms and/or ammunition.

This case was prosecuted by the United States Attorney's Office as part of Project Safe Neighborhoods. Project Safe Neighborhoods is a nationwide program begun in 2001, and designed to reduce violence in our communities by aggressively using existing federal firearms laws. United States Attorneys, District Attorneys, Sheriffs, Police Chiefs, and state officials have created partnerships to address crimes involving firearms. Generally, any arrest involving a firearm is reviewed immediately by local, state and federal

authorities to decide whether the case is best suited for prosecution under state or federal law, or a combination of both. Project Safe Neighborhoods is expected to lead to longer prison terms for violent criminals, and a significant reduction in violent crime. To date, federal prosecutions under Project Safe Neighborhoods in the Western District of Louisiana have led to the incarceration of criminals responsible for violent crimes such as homicides, aggravated assaults, robbery, car jacking, burglary, and drug trafficking.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

This investigation was conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the Lake Charles Police Department, and the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney James T. McManus.

For further information, please contact United States Attorney Donald W. Washington at 337-262-6618 or First Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Flanagan at 318-676-3600.

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